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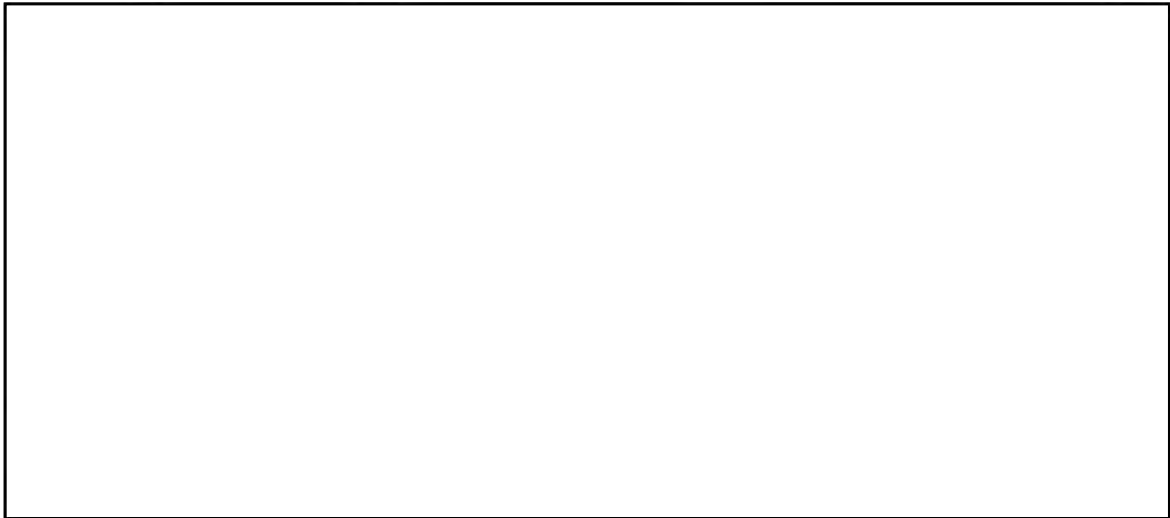
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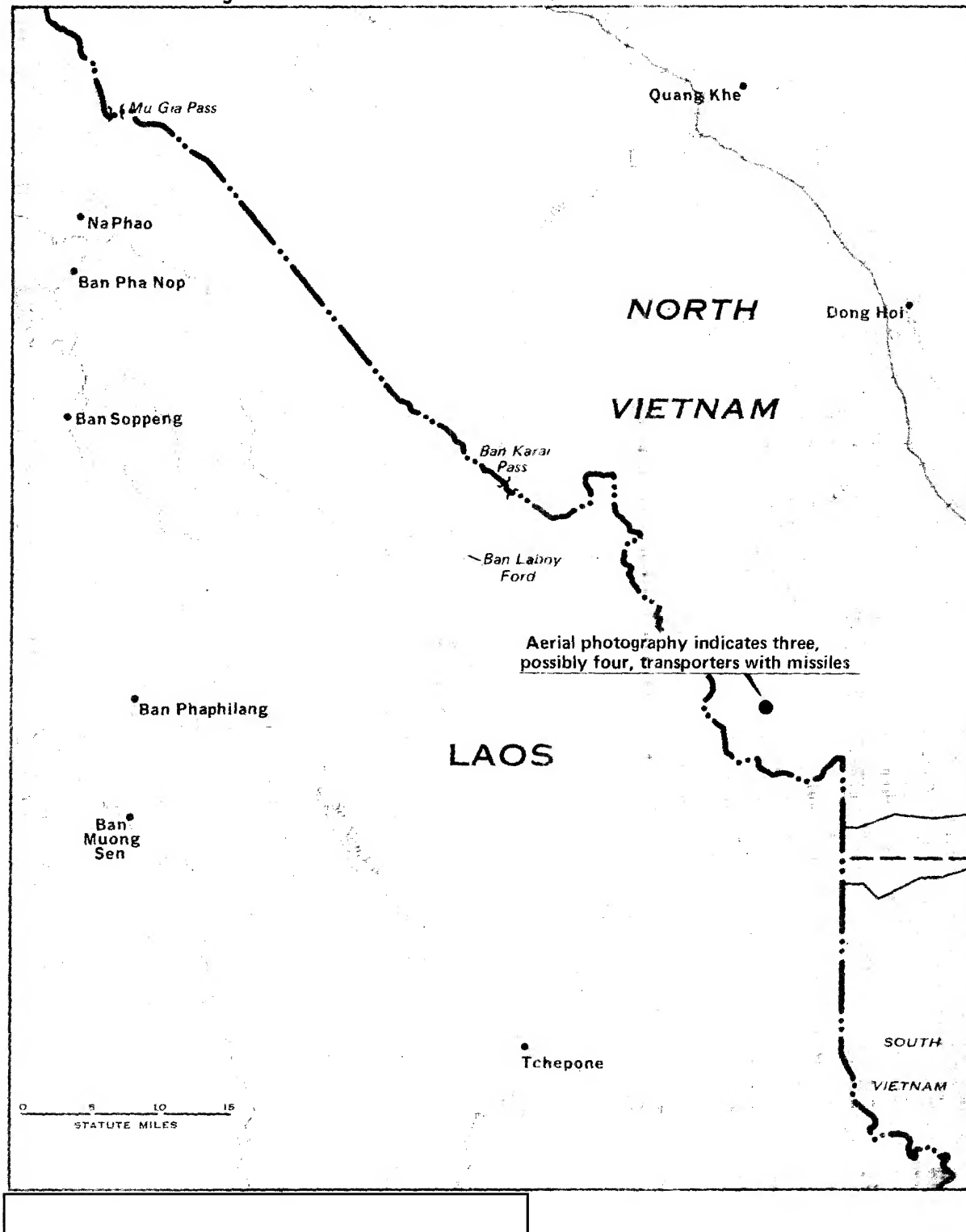
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Communists Moving SAMs Toward Laotian Border



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NOTES

25X1 North Vietnam: The Communists may be placing surface-to-air missiles near the Laotian border at the western edge of the Demilitarized Zone. A preliminary look [] at aerial photography taken on 3 February shows three transporters with missiles, and possibly a fourth, located along Route 1039 about four miles from the border. The North Vietnamese have already established several surface-to-air missile sites near logistic and infiltration routes in the southern part of the country. A new site just above the Demilitarized Zone would further increase the threat to US air operations over Laos.

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Arab States: Few significant results are expected from the conference of "front-line" states scheduled to convene in Cairo tomorrow. The meeting, to be attended by the leaders of Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Libya, and the Sudan, has been called to discuss the situation in the Middle East. The conference is expected to concentrate on military activities and plans. Options open to the Arabs during the present crisis are limited, however, and the differences among the states will continue to impede unified actions. []

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UN-Jordan: Jordanian Foreign Minister Rifai has told the US ambassador in Amman that his government will ask for a special session of the UN General Assembly to consider recent actions of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). Facing an estimated budget deficit of \$8.6 million for 1969-70 operations, UNRWA has decided to curtail certain aspects of its welfare program in the refugee camps of Jordan and Lebanon. Amman plans to raise a number of objections, maintaining that UNRWA must receive permission from the Assembly for such a cutback. The Assembly last fall did not address itself to UNRWA's warnings on the deficit, largely because of Arab-Israeli counter-charges during the debate on the organization. Left unsaid is the Jordanian concern that withdrawal of aid could make the refugees more receptive to recruitment by the fedayeen.

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Paraguay: The detention of Colonel Cubas, a highly respected member of the general staff, has created uncertainty over the dimensions of an alleged plot to overthrow President Stroessner. Since late December, the government has been arresting members of civilian opposition groups rumored to be linked to the military. Cubas, who was arrested late last month, is considered a top-notch professional officer and a man who would not enter into a conspiracy lightly. If Cubas is indeed involved in plotting, it could signal a crack in the military's monolithic support of Stroessner.

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Caribbean: Regional cooperation may receive a boost from the formation of the Caribbean Development Bank, which is ready to begin operations now that a headquarters site in Barbados has been chosen. The bank will have an initial capital of \$50 million and is scheduled to receive \$15 million in loans on easy terms from the UK, Canada, and the US over the next several years. The bank may be particularly helpful to the smaller islands, which in the past have had to rely heavily on grants-in-aid from the UK and on loans from Canada.

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